

Hi Rob

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

The City of Mount Pearl contracted a consultant to complete a number of special projects in finance, records management, policy development and economic development. Her engagement complied with the City's requirements for sole sourcing, with the knowledge and support of City Council.

The consultant was selected for this work given her experience with the City, her familiarity with its operating environment, and, given the nature of the project, her reputation as a trusted and discrete retired senior employee of the City of Mount Pearl.

One day this past summer, the consultant walked into my office while I was sorting some financial records in order to complete some City expense reports. She offered to help quickly find the City documentation I was looking for. In doing so, she found some personal expense records that appeared to be related to some of my volunteer work. She then volunteered, on her own time, to help prepare the related expense reports. Taxpayers did not incur any cost whatsoever for this work.

Not unlike thousands of volunteers in our community, I occasionally receive or send email related to my family or community involvements. I will continue to make every effort to restrict my email box to only work.

I have worked hard on behalf of the taxpayers of Mount Pearl for my entire career. I have never ever misused public resources, and I never will. In fact, with the support of City Council, I have worked tirelessly to improve how tax dollars are managed in the City, and our efforts have resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings.

I hope this helps. If a story proceeds, I would appreciate if you could somehow include my entire statement above in the story.

Thanks

Steve

Mr. Antle,

I am not comfortable participating in an interview, but I am happy to offer the following statement. I would appreciate it if you would include my full statement, if indeed there is going to be a story published.

I am a former senior management employee with the City of Mount Pearl. I retired in 2014.

In March 2018, I was requested by the City to return as a Consultant to assist with some concerns regarding business permits, occupancies and taxation. What was intended to take approximately a couple of weeks became a year-long process.

During my time with the City as a Consultant I assisted in a number of areas – economic development, planning, permitting, tax billings, records management, policies and procedures – to name a few. I reported directly to the CAO and we provided regular updates to City Council.

With regard to your inquiry regarding my assisting with expense claims for Mr. Kent, I did assist in finalizing some City expense documents and in so doing, batched receipts into categories, as some of Mr. Kent's personal receipts appeared to be related to his volunteer work. Knowing how much work was on his plate, I volunteered and assisted Mr. Kent in his preparation of expense claims for two volunteer organizations, but I did not invoice the City for this time (approx. 3-4 hours). However, I did do some of this work while at City Hall. The City of Mount Pearl did not incur any costs as a result.

I hope this statement assists you with your investigation. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in.

Sincerely,

Bronda Aylward